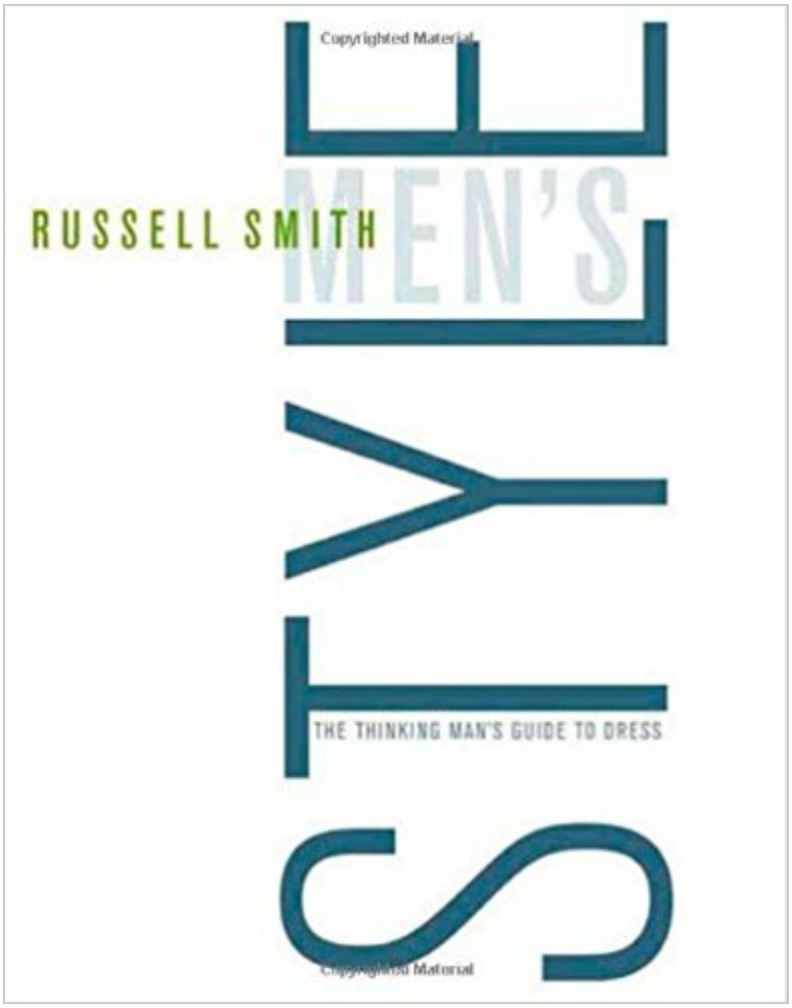
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Men's Style: The Thinking Man's Guide To Dress



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Synopsis

Guys don’t wear wolf pelts anymore, but not much else has changed in the world of men’s clothes: the right suit, or tie, or shirt, or shoes still projects mystery, erotic potential, and power. And to negotiate these hurdles with style and confidence, Men’s Style is indispensable---a valuable source of practical advice for how to dress in a world of conflicting fashion imperatives, and a witty guide to the history, trends, codes, and conventions of men’s attire.In chapters and amusing sidebars on shoes, suits, shirts and ties, formal and casual wear, underwear and swimsuits, cufflinks and watches, coats, hats, and scarves, Russell Smith steers a confident course between the twin hazards of blandness and vulgarity to articulate a philosophy of dress that can take you anywhere.Here you’ll find the rules for looking the part at the office, a formal function, or the hippest party---and learn when you can toss those rules aside. And you’ll find level answers to all of your questions. What color suit should a man buy first? Should socks match the belt, pants, or shoes? What tuxedos are always in, and which aren’t ever? And what’s required of ambiguous social situations like "dress casual" and "black-tie optional"? The answers are here, in a book that’s full of trivia, history, and guidance---finally, the perfect guide for brothers, fathers, sons, and selves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most public library collections should include a current book on men’s clothing style, and this one is an excellent candidate. Smith, an experienced men’s fashion writer, submits his comprehensive guide as not simply a gathering of illustrations with minimal accompanying text but much more. He

opens with a discussion of male sartorial history and then shares his thoughts on men’s traditional fear of being fashionable; his advocacy of style is underscored by his very serious sentiment that "privilege of the natural over the artificial is philosophically unjustified . . . for there is nothing inherently morally impure about the artificial." His intended audience is the man at the beginning stages of assembling a wardrobe. The analysis Smith so spiritedly and professionally dispenses, concerning the kinds of shoes, shirts, ties, jackets, and other necessary items that are available, as well as his pointers on how to wear these wardrobe ingredients well, leads his readers to an understanding that "fashion is what is out there for you to choose from; style is what you choose." Brad HooperCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

Witty and informed manual of male dress sense...Mr. Smith provides detailed tips, with illustrations, on myriad points of male attire, from tweed selection to shirt-tucking to watches and Y-fronts, along with helpful overviews of big-picture manly clothing dilemmas. (The New York Times)His restless intellectualism, his muscular prose, and his signature wit make him the auteur de mode for the club crowd and fashion literati alike. Men’s Style abounds with captivating and original insights. Both a practical guide for the elegant man and a cultural survey of fashion and trends. It is even more entertaining as a collection of Smith’s seductive prose and his often hilarious observations about the urban landscape. (The Globe and Mail)Flippantly brilliant. (Flare)A lively, witty yet sensible primer. (Vancouver Sun)Personal, knowledgeable, and full of tasteful advice. (Weekly Scoop)

Russell Smith’s 200+ page style guide is a must-have for any man aiming to develop a solid sense of style based on timeless principles and the appreciation for a proud and meticulous appearance. If you already fancy yourself a dandy, however, the advice proffered by Smith may be material already familiar to you, although the brief history lessons may still be worthwhile. For those men who have yet to graduate to the fashion advanced class, Smith collates and presents an array of rules dictating tasteful male fashion: "Rules are men’s friends; they can substitute for taste" (pp.24). Although this book is relatively compact, Smith discusses all the important fashion elements: shoes, suits, jackets, shirts, ties, hardware (e.g. watches, cuff links), formal wear, casual wear, underwear, outerwear, scent, and hair. As much as this book is a presentation of facts about male clothing and appearance, however, it is also Smith freely interjecting his opinion about what he considers stylish, swanky, and even stupid. No matter your level of sartorial skill, this book is worth having, reading, and referencing if you have questions about shoes, lacing, vests, jackets, slacks, cologne, or the like.

I purchased this book after I read Esquires guide. The author has an excellent grasp of mens fashion. He gives good advice, although his distaste for the button down shirt is questionable. He does go into some history of male fashion, which I found interesting. His advice on shirt colors and ties is excellent. He leans toward the more flamboyant side with bright silk pocket squares and bright ties. I agree with him. The dull red tie, white shirt and blue suit, remind me of 1980 IBM technicians. I bought more French Cuff shirts after ready this book on his admiration for the trend. You'll get a good overview of male fashion. I'm glad I bought this as a companion to my Esquire guide. It is always good to read two points of view. I highly recommend this book.

Russell Smith is a Canadian writer whose work appears in The Globe and Mail, as well as the Toronto-based website, xyyz.com. In this little book, Smith provides timeless advice for selecting clothing that is both well-made and eminently stylish.For example, he walks the reader through both what to look for in finely crafted dress shirts, ties, shoes, and sportjackets, and also gives detailed advice on choosing colors, patterns, and fabrics.Though he clearly appreciates classic men's clothing, Smith departs greatly from dogmatists like Alan Flusser, reconciling the best of the "rules" with the sartorial realties of 21st century. Arguably the best of the modern style guides.

This is a hard book to rate, the first chapter is great and I've actually purchased the book for other people just so they can read that one chapter. However the rest of the book isn't the best source available for the information covered. Generally for most people it's going to be good though. Despite having far fewer pictures than some other books it's actually pretty good.

This is not a comprehensive, cover-every-item-you-can-have book. It is, however, a good guide to the basics (plus some) and how to wear them, for the purpose of not being judged poorly if you find yourself among the "upper crust".

My husband prefers classic mens clothing. I bought the book for myself to learn more about the articles of clothing. This book is wriiten in a no nonsense way. It not filled with current clothing fads. The author talks about importance of proper fit. Since classic mens clothing can be expensive suggestions are made on what to invest in to build a wardrobe. The information can certainly be used to revamp a wardrobe also.

It is easy to appreciate the writing of Mr. Smith. He is well documented, presents the facts and decisions behind the clothes patterns, materials, threading, stitching. The reader will get guidelines on how to dress properly and what quality clothes look like. The fact that the author has an academic background shows in the vocabulary. Even though one would expect a more formal language, most of the paragraphs contain a certain smooth humor. It can be a pleasant birthday gift also.

I love the way Russell Smith writes. Men's Style takes one through all areas of men's fashion and some areas of conduct in an interesting and humorous manner. I do not agree with all of Mr. Smith's suggestions, clogs - only if someone wanted to dance on my grave, but enjoyed this book immensely.

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